

Notice Regarding Suspension of Non-Emergency Business in the Land Court

Pursuant to Part II of Land Court Standing Order 3-20: Supplement to Emergency Measures in Response to Coronavirus Outbreak, the Land Court hereby provides notice to members of the bar and the public that due to the health and safety protective measures necessitated by the novel Coronavirus outbreak, access to the Land Court's facilities within the Suffolk County Courthouse will be restricted to a limited number of essential Land Court personnel only. Accordingly, the Land Court is implementing the following measures in accordance with Standing Orders 2-20 and 3-20, as well as its emergency staffing plans, effective immediately.

1. Limited judicial and non-judicial personnel will be available on-site for purposes of handling emergency business only. Emergency matters are those in which a significant risk of irreparable and serious harm to a party is imminent, should the court not act, and encompasses temporary restraining orders, preliminary injunctions, and urgent requests for judicial endorsement of memoranda of lis pendens. Because there will be no physical access to Land Court offices and courtrooms by non-court personnel, contact with the court should be made by email to the Sessions Clerk for the Justice to whom the particular case previously has been assigned, if any, or by telephoning the Recorder's Office during court hours (Main number: (617) 788-7470) so that the court will be able to assist callers with information and refer matters to the appropriate court personnel so those matters may be addressed appropriately. Emergency matters will be dealt with, as the court directs, on the papers or by telephone.
2. The Land Court is suspending all non-emergency business that cannot be conducted remotely without the presence of onsite staff.
3. All previously-scheduled non-emergency events (including those scheduled to be conducted by telephone or video) will be postponed or rescheduled with notice provided by the court to all parties and counsel who have a current notice of appearance on file.
4. All directives and instructions for the conduct of non-emergency court business outlined in the attachment to Standing Order 3-20 that are inconsistent with the provisions of this notice are hereby suspended until further notice.